

TAB B

State Department

Telegram from

Copenhagen No. 740

dated 2 February 1953

State Dept. declassification & release instructions on file

FROM: Copenhagen

TO : Secretary of State

NO. : 740, February 2, 1 p.m.

DEPT PASS MOSCOW, VOANY. SENT DEPT 740; RPTD INFO PARIS 167  
FOR SRE AND REINHARDT, MOSCOW 30, OSLO, VOANY, STOCKHOLM UNNUMBERED.

Morning Jan 30 Soviet Minister protested to Prime Minister Eriksen (acting Foreign Minister while Kraft away) about documentary radio program planned for evening Jan 30, as "insulting to his country and to Stalin". Minister said that, if program permitted, it must be considered unfriendly act towards Soviet Union and "without precedence in friendly relations between Denmark and the Soviet Union".

Prime Minister informed self of context planned program, discussed matter with Ministers Internal Affairs and Social Affairs, and representatives five democratic parties, after which C.A.C. Brun, Chief Foreign Office's Economic-Political Section orally answered Soviet Minister. Brun told latter that state radio is independent institution over which government exerts no control and that government saw nothing insulting or improper in planned program.

Broadcast, which had been announced in state radio's weekly program sheet, planned as part of a NATO information series - called "First year after war" - was held as scheduled and no further Soviet protest yet made. However, transmission accompanied by much radio interference and state radio engineers testified Jan 31 that a station outside of Denmark had jammed program with some success. Copenhagen and nearby radio stations took "fix" on jamming station, but their proximity prevented accurate location of station.

Program written by well-known Social-Democrat Svend Henningsen, was documentary of events during 1945-1946 which led to "change European balance of power" and caused Soviet domination East European countries, thus providing one of

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conditions for re-establishment NATO. Sources of program's details were official documents, speeches and memoirs, including those of Harry Hopkins. Events were presented as drama in which professional actors read roles of, among others, Stalin, Vishinsky and Molotov. Vishinsky was heard giving "orders" to King Michael of Rumania and Stalin saying to Harry Hopkins that the USSR "must insist" on a strong Poland "friendly to us".

One result of Soviet protest seems to have been wider dissemination of the material presented in this very strong pro-NATO program, which was reprinted prominently in almost all newspapers. In addition, after papers covered story, radio was deluged by inquiries asking what had been cut from program since it was 12 minutes shorter than had been announced. Spokesman said nothing cut - radio had simply misjudged program's length.

Affair was headlined prominently page one all democratic papers. Typical was NATIONAL TIDENDE's "Soviet Minister protests program before it is broadcast - calls it insult to Stalin, which it was not".

Thus far three leading papers, Conservative BERLINGSKE TIDENDE, Conservative NATIONAL TIDENDE, and Radical-Liberal POLITIKEN have carried editorials about the affair, all expressing strong irritation of Soviet Government's "attempted censorship" Danish radio programs.